



FIRELINE

AN OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE WASHINGTON FIRE COMMISSIONERS ASSOCIATION

DECEMBER 2006

2006-07 WFCA Legislative Committee Report

The WFCA Legislative Committee has met on several occasions during the interim. After extensive review and discussion, the committee has initiated the following proposals to be introduced as legislation for the 2007 session:

- The **number one priority** is re-introduction of the multi-year lid lift authority for junior taxing districts.
- Provide a property tax credit/exemption for volunteer firefighters to enhance volunteer firefighter recruitment and retention.
- Raise bid limits for public works from \$2,500 up to \$10,000.
- Establish volunteer firefighter pension service credit.
- Authorize board of commissioners to increase from five to seven members by a vote of the people.
- Memorial to Congress urging passage of the Volunteer Firefighter Recruitment and Retention Act of 2007.

The WFC/WFCA legislative workshop and luncheon will be held on Monday, March 5

The issues outlined below will be closely monitored as they are introduced as legislation in 2007. They are as follows:

- Increase special district elected official per diem compensation from \$70 to \$90 per day with a maximum annual amount of \$8,640. Support.
- The WFCA will continue to oppose elimination of DECA flame retardant without scientific empirical evidence that it is harmful to humans and/or the environment.
- There is a proposal from county auditors to eliminate special election dates. The WFCA will meet with the Secretary of State and county auditors to further discuss this issue (in 2007 the Fall primary would be moved to August 21).
- HazMat funding—support.
- The WFCA will continue to support the right of voters to reconsider a petition to annex into a city with a referendum vote of the people.

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2007 WFCA Board of Directors Elected

The following individuals were elected at conference to serve on the 2007 WFCA Board of Directors.

OFFICERS

President:

Joe Dawson, Spokane 1

Vice President:

Les Riel, Yakima 4

Secretary-Treasurer:

Bill Gates, S. King Fire & Rescue

REGIONAL DIRECTORS

Region 2:

Emilio Buttice, Walla Walla 4

Region 4:

Ken Eakin, Yakima 12

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A Message from the President by Richard Kistler



As we approach the end of another eventful year, I think it appropriate that we look back upon the accomplishments of our association and to look forward to the challenges and opportunities that the upcoming years will bring.

Looking back first, our association has supported and helped pass significant legislation that has benefited fire districts throughout the state. Included in this effort:

- Support of legislation clarifying local elected officials of special purpose districts may take action at an open public meeting to support or oppose ballot measures.
- Proposed and passed legislation to address fire district proration by providing an additional 25 cents outside of the \$5.90 limit for any fire district that was being prorated within their taxing district.
- Clarified that future metro park districts would be junior in tax

status to fire districts.

- The WFCA will continue to oppose all legislation which is considered unfunded mandates.

These are just a few of many bills that impacted fire districts that the WFCA either supported or opposed.

*I want to take this opportunity
to wish incoming President
Joe Dawson and the rest of the
Board the very best in 2007.*

Additionally, our association, along with support from the Oregon Fire District Directors Association, continues to see growth and influence of the National Association of Elected Fire Officials.

We saw evidence of that growth in Las Vegas at the annual convention where NAEFO was given the opportunity to become a member of the National Fire Services Institute.

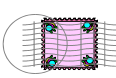
Looking ahead, we have the opportunity once again to propose and support legislation to allow fire districts to ask their voters for their approval of a six year levy-lid lift. We are confident that we will be successful in the 2007 legislature.

We also face a challenge in the negotiation of a fair contract for those districts that serve the Washington State Ferry terminals as well as dealing with the continued challenge of mergers and annexations. The Legislative Committee will be asking for your input on these and other issues.

Although I will continue to be a member of the WFCA Board (as immediate past president), I want to take this opportunity to wish incoming President Joe Dawson and the rest of the Board the very best in 2007.

Lastly, and more personally, I would like to wish to all of you a joyous and safe holiday season. I have truly enjoyed the privilege of serving you as your President for the last two years.

The WFCA is currently updating its records for the *2007 Washington State Fire Service Directory*. The information supplied by districts is also used to update the WFCA mailing list. Please submit changes as soon as possible by contacting the association office in one of the following ways:



Mail

P. O. Box 134
Olympia, WA 98507



Fax

360.664.0415



Email

wfca@wfca.wa.gov



Telephone

1.800.491.9322 (toll-free)
360.943.3880

ON THE WEB...

The Questions & Answers feature on the WFCA website has encountered some technical difficulties in recent weeks and is not functioning properly. We are working to resolve the issue and will let you know when this popular feature is up and running once again. Thank you for your patience.

WFCA CONFERENCE RECAP

The 58th conference of the Washington Fire Commissioners Association was held October 19-21, 2006 at the Doubletree Hotel/Seattle Airport in SeaTac. The following is a recap of the conference.

Congratulations to the 2006 Management Excellence Award winners for their great work. Winners include:



Pictured (l-r): Commissioners Spring, Collins and Jakubiak

CATEGORY A

(Budget of \$1 million plus)

1st Place: **Clark 6 (pictured)**

2nd Place: **S. King Fire & Rescue**

3rd Place: **Snohomish 1**

CATEGORY B (Budget of \$500,000 - \$999,999)

1st Place: **Thurston 13**

2nd Place: **Franklin 3**

CATEGORY C (Budget of \$250,000 - \$499,999)

1st Place: **Skagit 13**

2nd Place: **Riverside Fire & Rescue**

CATEGORY D (Budget under \$250,000)

1st Place: **Jefferson 4**

2nd Place: **Jefferson 5**

3rd Place: **Mason 18**

Commissioner recognition awards, honoring service for 10, 15, 20 and 25 years, were presented as follows:

10 YEAR AWARD (Honorary Life Membership):

Larry Hollenbeck (Adams 5), **Clyde McCullough, Sr.** (Chelan 7), **William H. Hargett** (Clark 12), **Mike Hamel** (Camano Island Fire & Rescue), **Frank Peep** (Woodinville Fire & Life Safety District), **William J. Powers, Jr.** and **Richard T. Smith** (King & Kittitas 51), **Ralph Rogers** and **John Wilkins, Sr.** (Central Kitsap Fire & Rescue), **Steve Leslie** and **Jean Vernon** (Okanogan 11), **Roger Castle** and **Jim Hiebert** (Pend Oreille 8), **John R. Guizzetti** (Pierce 2), **Michael Grant** (Pierce 8), **Gerald W. Gustafson** and **Verne M. Pierson** (Graham Fire & Rescue), **Douglas J. Avery** (Skagit 13), **William Snyder** (Snohomish 3), **Timothy N. Bailey** and **Paul F. Taylor** (Snohomish 22), **Donald E. Foster** (Spokane 9), **Tim Bruner** (Yelm Fire District 2), **Les F. Riel** (Yakima 4).

15 YEAR AWARD

Wilbur Trescott (Adams 5), **Jerry Sleater** (Benton 1), **Dwight VanderVorste** (Grant 10), **Cheryl Engle** (Central Whidbey Fire & Rescue), **Ronald D. Garrison** (Jefferson 4), **William J. Powers, Jr.** and **Richard T.**

Smith (King & Kittitas 51), **Miland Walling** (Klickitat 2), **William A. Jarmon** (Pierce 3), **Gerald W. Gustafson** (Graham Fire & Rescue), **Ken Anderson** (Skagit 2), **Douglas J. Avery** (Skagit 13), **William Snyder** (Snohomish 3), **Donald E. Foster** (Spokane 9), **Emilio Buttice** (Walla Walla 4).

20 YEAR AWARD

Wilbur Trescott (Adams 5), **Paul Messner** (Central Whidbey Fire & Rescue), **Ronald D. Garrison** (Jefferson 4), **William J. Powers, Jr.** and **Richard T. Smith** (King & Kittitas 51), **William A. Jarmon** (Pierce 3), **Douglas J. Avery** (Skagit 13), **William Snyder** (Snohomish 3).

25 YEAR AWARD

William J. Powers, Jr. and **Richard T. Smith** (King & Kittitas 51), **William A. Jarmon** (Pierce 3).

Congratulations to all of these commissioners for their years of dedicated service.

SPECIAL APPRECIATION

The association would like to thank the following individuals and companies for their contributions to the conference—your efforts and support helped make the conference possible:

Instructors **Michael Gaffney**, **Bob Anderson**, **Ed Lewis**, **Brigitte Smith**, **Stacy Rundle**, **Steve DiJulio**, **Julie Kebler**, **Rosa Fruehling-Watson** and **Gordon Graham** for offering their expertise...

Education Committee Chair **Les Reil** and members **Bill Gates**, **Bob Muhleman**, **Verne Pierson**, **Ken Anderson**, **Roy Waugh** and **Lee Boling** for putting together the conference workshops and introducing instructors...

Conference Host Committee Chair **Roger Hershey** and the western Washington fire commissioners who not only welcomed participants with a wonderful Italian feast, but assisted with the program for opening ceremonies as well (a special thank you to the **Woodinville Boy Scout Explorer Troop** for their participation)...

Thursday morning continental breakfast sponsors **Emergency Services Insurance Program** and **Rice, Ferguson Miller Architecture & Planning** for an excellent meal and a great conference kick-off...

Refreshment break sponsors **Mercer Health & Benefits**, **Seattle-Northwest Securities Corporation**, **TCA Architecture Planning** and **Washington Governmental Entity Pool** for their continuing support of the WFCA... (the continental breakfast and refreshment break sponsors provide funding for the WFCA educational grant program which allows training opportunities for districts in need)...

Commissioners **Ben Cavalli, Jr.**, **Linn "Penny" Dollar, Jr.**, **Jim Grove**, **William Hansen**, **Michael Lam-**

See Recap on Page Five

Asotin 1 Improves Insurance Rating

Effective September 2006, Asotin 1 improved its insurance rating from an 8 to a 5.

According to Fire Chief Noel Hardin, "Because of our Board and their vision of excellence, we were able to make a significant jump. I worked with a local insurance company and came up with some numbers that were pretty incredible. He surveyed 4 different companies and rates and how the new rating would save people money. We found out that on an average they are saving more annually than what they are paying for fire protection. On the low end, we estimated that we were dropping at least \$750,000 back into the community! It is a real exciting time for us and the community seems to be real happy about it."

The WFCB congratulates Chief Hardin and Commissioners Leonard Brooks, William Wolfbarger and Patrick Loseth.

UPCOMING EVENTS...

- ♦ The WFCB *2007 Saturday Seminar Series* brochure outlining class topics and locations will be mailed to members in January. Workshops will take place at the Quinault Beach Resort in Ocean Shores (April 28), Campbell's Resort in Chelan (June 2), and Spokane (date TBA). Complete information will be mailed to members after the first of the year and will be posted on the WFCB website at www.wfcb.wa.gov.
- ♦ The *2007 WFC/WFCB Legislative Workshop & Luncheon* will be held **Monday, March 5**, at the state capitol rotunda (Columbia Room, Legislative Building) in Olympia. Information will be mailed to WFCB members after the first of the year.
- ♦ The WFCB 2007 Annual Conference will be held at the Pasco Red Lion Hotel, October 25-27. For room reservations, call the Red Lion at 1.800.325.4000 (main line is 509.547.0701)—room rate is \$94.95. A block has been secured at the Best Western Pasco Inn and Suites for overflow reservations; call 1.800.528.1234 (main line 509.543.7722)—room rate is \$95.61. The Snure Seminar will take place on Wednesday, October 24 and conference will conclude early afternoon on the 27th. A complete schedule of events will be mailed to all members in August.

Holiday Message

The following Holiday Safety Message was created by Deputy State Fire Marshal Cole Roberts who works for the State Fire Marshal's Office, Fire Protection Bureau.

"On the night before Christmas, when all through the house not a creature was stirring, not even a mouse.

The tree was well watered, the needles not dry; dry trees can cause fires, that can't be denied.

The chimney was safe, with its clean tidy flue; combustibles were kept clear, 'cause these folks had a clue.

The family slept peacefully not even aware that new smoke detectors were checking the air.

Now should they alarm, and cause a great clatter; this family knew just, how to deal with this matter.

If practiced escape route, they've used in the past; because with fire and smoke, you must escape fast.

We all have a job, to do what is right; we must prevent fires that lurk in the night.

They say fire safety begins in the home; the life that you save...might just be your own."

Ads

FOR SALE by King 20 (Skyway Fire):

'80 American La France pumper, 32,252 mi & 4656 operating hrs, 8V71n Detroit dies, HT 740d Allison AT, 500 gal water tank, 2-Stage 1500 GPM Amer La France pump, body & paint refurb '90, incl emerg lights & siren, ladders Kussmaul chrgng system. \$5,000. Sale as is where is, w/no warr expressed and/or implied. Contact Chief Fitzgerald, mfitzgerald@kcfcd20.org, or Capt. Wyckoff, twyckoff@kcfcd20.org. Dept phone: 206.772.1430.

FOR SALE by Pierce 6 (CPF&R):

1) '92 Chevy Suburban K 2500 4x4, 350 eng, A/C, elec windows & door locks, Whelen Light bar, Whelen Elec siren, Motorola Radio & rear cargo area sliding equip tray. Approx 99,000 mi, \$6,500.00 OBO. 2) '94 Ford E-I Type I ambulance. (M 94-2) F 350, 7.3L dies, Telma Retarder, mobile radio, intercom system, Ferno cot. Approx 145,000 mi, \$10,500 OBO. 3) 27 - 2,400# Breathing Air cylinders. Misc cascade system fittings, valves & hose avail as they last. \$100 per bottle OBO. All sales "As Is, Where Is" w/no warr expressed/implied. Inspect @ 17210 110th Ave E, Puyallup, WA 98374. Contact Asst Chief William Thomas, 253.538.6400, Fax 253.537.7294, email wthomas@centralpiercefire.org

FOR SALE by Whatcom 4: '86 Ford/Grumman 1250 GPM pumper w/750 gal tank. Chassis: FORD C-8000, Caterpillar 3208 turbocharged dies, AT, <36,000 mi, currently frontline, in prev maint program. New tires '01, new batteries '06. Body good cond w/minor wear. Pump: Waterous CSYB 1250 GPM Sngl stage; passed pump test summer '06; 750 gal steel tank; 2 crosslays, 5-2.5" discharges; 2-2.5" gated intakes. Photos & maint records avail. Asking \$18,500. Avail 1/07. Contact BC Tom Gooch, 360.734.7316 ext. 402, tgooch@wcfcd4.org.

POSITION ANNOUNCEMENT by E Olympia Fire Dist 6 (Thurston Co):

Batt Chief Training Ofcr/Health & Safety. Works under direction of Asst Chief of Operations; assist in scheduling & coordination of both Fire & EMS trng, develop trng programs, track & maintain certifications, & trng records mgmt. Will also serve as District's Health & Safety Ofcr. Sal Range: DOQ \$50,819-\$61,771 FLSA, non-rep position. Closes: 1/12/07. A full job description & appl info can be downloaded from the district's website at: <http://www.eofd6.org/jobs>.

Report From Page One

- The WFCA will continue dialogue with the Washington State Ferries for a fair contract. This may be a legislative amendment in the state budget.

A complete legislative report along with position papers will be sent to all commissioners by January 5. Please note that the first legislative report will be posted on the WFCA website at www.wfca.wa.gov on Friday, January 19.

Also, a reminder that the Washington Fire Chiefs/Washington Fire Commissioners legislative workshop and luncheon will be held on Monday, March 5 at the state capitol rotunda (Columbia Room) in Olympia. The Fire Chiefs will host the event this year and will provide more details in the future. Happy Holidays to everyone in the WFCA family.

Recap From Page Three

brecht, Bob Muhleman, Richard Kistler, former Commissioner and Past President Joan Miller for their assistance and service at conference (introductions, presentations and assistance)...

Silent Auction Chair **Lois Hensley** and Co-Chair **Kim Burrus**, members **Carmy Buttice** and **Kathy McNulty**, for their work on behalf of the Silent Auction & Raffle to benefit the Harborview Burn Center. These ladies donate many hours and work very hard for this worthy cause...

Individuals and districts who donated items to the Silent Auction AND those who participated in the bidding...

The conference could not happen without the assistance of all the above-mentioned individuals and companies, as well as the many fire commissioners, chiefs and secretaries who attended.

Board From Page One

Region 6:

Mark Thompson, S. King Fire & Rescue

Region 8:

Keith Merritt, Cowlitz 2 Fire & Rescue

These individuals join existing WFCA Board Directors **Sharon Colby**, Spokane 3 (Region 1); **Dennis Bjork**, Grant 5 (Region 3); **Steve Lich**, Camano Island Fire & Rescue (Region 5); **Robert Skaggs**, Graham Fire & Rescue (Region 7) and **David Wheeler**, Port Ludlow Fire & Rescue (Region 9). In accordance with the WFCA By-laws, Richard Kistler will serve on the Board in 2007 as Immediate Past President.

Congratulations to those elected to the 2007 WFCA Board of Directors! (For the 2007 Board meeting dates, check out the WFCA website at www.wfca.wa.gov and select *Calendar of Events*.)



2006 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

OFFICERS

PRESIDENT: RICHARD KISTLER, THURSTON 7

VICE PRES.: LES RIEL, YAKIMA 4

SEC.-TREAS.: JOE DAWSON, SPOKANE 1

DIRECTORS

REGION 1: SHARON COLBY, SPOKANE 3

REGION 2: EMILIO BUTTICE, WALLA WALLA 4

REGION 3: DENNIS BJORK, GRANT 5

REGION 4: KEN EAKIN, YAKIMA 12

REGION 5: STEVE LICH, ISLAND 1

REGION 6: MARK THOMPSON, KING 39

REGION 7: ROBERT SKAGGS, PIERCE 21

REGION 8: KEITH MERRITT, COWLITZ 2

REGION 9: DAVID WHEELER, JEFFERSON 3

EXECUTIVE SECRETARY: ROGER FERRIS



WASHINGTON FIRE COMMISSIONERS ASSOCIATION

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OFFICE HOURS

8:30 A.M. - 4:30 P.M., MONDAY - FRIDAY

THE OPINIONS EXPRESSED IN THIS PUBLICATION ARE NOT NECESSARILY
THOSE OF THE WFCA BOARD OF DIRECTORS AND/OR MEMBERSHIP.

WASHINGTON FIRE COMMISSIONERS ASSOCIATION

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